[15th December 1953

Election to the Puzhathi Panchayat Board, Malabar.

* 42 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government did not introduce the secret ballot system in the recent election to the Puzhathi Panchayat Board in Chirakkal taluk, Malabar, even though there are more than 12,000 voters in the same Panchayat area and the income of the Board comes to about more than Rs. 10,000; and if so, the reasons for the same?

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" It is a fact that the election to the Puzhathi Panchayat was not held by the secret ballot system as it is only a Class II Panchayat, its income during 1952–53 and previous years being very much below Rs. 10,000. Elections to Class I Panchayats only are held by secret ballot."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" സർ, 12,000 വോട്ടർമാർ ഉള്ള ഒരു പഞ്ചായത്തു ബോഡ് അതിർത്തിക്കുള്ളിൽ സീക്രട്ട് ബാലററ് സമ്പ്രദായം നടപ്പാക്കാത്തതിൻെറ ഫലമായി തിരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പിൽതന്നെ വമ്പിച്ച തകരാറുകളും കള്ള വോട്ടുകളും നടന്നിട്ടുണ്ട് എന്നു് ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മന്ത്രി അറിയുമോ? ഇതു സംബന്ധിച്ച വല്ല ആക്ഷേപങ്ങളും ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മന്ത്രിക്കു കിട്ടീട്ടുണ്ടോ?".

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" Sir, I have already said, and it has been discussed once before on the floor of this House, that the policy of the Government is to have secret ballot for First-class Panchayats and open ballot (show of hands) for Second-class Panchayats. Therefore, this election is in accordance with the policy of the Government, which was announced on the floor of this House."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" May I know, Sir, whether the classification of Panchayats into Class I and Class II is made by the Government of their own accord or only when this is brought to their notice? "

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" No, Sir. This is made according to the census figures and the revenue figures, which are examined and submitted by the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards."

Stocking of pumpsets at Taluk Headquarters.

* 43 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state whether the Government have received any suggestion recently from Malabar District Food Production Committee to the effect that pumpsets owned by the department may be kept at the Taluk Headquarters so that they may be more easily and quickly available to cultivators in times of need; and if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The answer is in the affirmative. The District Agricultural Officers are being instructed to arrange to keep a few pumpsets at the Taluk Headquarters wherever feasible."